



HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, June 23, 2014

**5:30 – 6:14 pm in City Hall Council Chambers
301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX 78701**

Chair Paul Rhea called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Commission Members in Attendance:

Paul Rhea, Chair

Judy Cortez

Sara Clark, Vice Chair

Will Krueger

Elizabeth Brenner

Human Resources Department Staff Present:

Jonathan Babiak, Administrator, Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office (EE/FHO)

Rose Xavier, EE/FHO Staff Liaison

1. CITIZENS' COMMUNICATION

Adam Slosberg, Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, spoke on the need for including mental health issues within human rights policy discussions.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 28, 2014 regular meeting were approved with changes on a 5-0 vote; Commissioner Clark motion, Commissioner Brenner seconded; Commissioner Lofton was not present.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. The Chair gave a reminder to Commission members that due to construction at City Hall the Human Rights Commission meetings for July, August, and September will be held at the Street-Jones Building, 4th Floor, 1000 E. 11th Street, Austin TX 78702.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Presentation from Lisa Garcia, Austin Housing Authority, regarding the housing voucher program. Ms. Garcia was unable to attend the meeting.

5. STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- a. The status of the Commission's goals and objectives for 2014.
 - i. Austin Affordable Housing
 - ii. Transportation Study for Disability Community
 - iii. PARD Congregate Meal Program
 - iv. Improve internal Commission/EE/FHO processes and procedures.
 - v. APD Racial Profiling – Cite and Release program vs Arrests for possession.
 - vi. Economic Disparities in the African American Community.
- b. Plans and strategies for meeting those goals and objectives.

6. STAFF BRIEFING

- a. Mail issue – USPS staff would obliterate the wrong address in the past, but they have been told to cease that practice.
- b. Our office has completed the stakeholder input project on the Council Resolution to process an ordinance to add Source of Income as a protected class to the housing discrimination ordinance. We did not find a consensus among the stakeholders. Austin Tenants' Council has previously cited a figure of nearly 80,000 units falling within the Fair Market rent limits and that do not accept Housing Choice vouchers. Although these units would become available to voucher holders if Council adds this protected class, with the current Austin occupancy rate at approximately 95%, the approximate number of additional units would only be 4,000.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Recommendation to City Council on adding protection from retaliation in Chapter 5-2 of the City Code.
- b. Recommendation to City Council on adding Source of Income as a protected class to Chapter 5-1 of the City Code.
- c. Recommendation to City Council on the use of Travis County resources for the implementation of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Secure Communities deportation program.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 pm without objection.